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Nullification and Secession in the United States. By EDWARD PAYSON POWELL. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1897. — xi, 461 pp.

In respect to conception, this work leaves nothing to be desired. The author aims at a dispassionate philosophical survey of those episodes in our history which by contrast throw into clearest relief the development of our national unity. In respect to execution of this purpose, however, the work is no more successful than any one of a host of ephemeral publications on similar lines that have appeared and disappeared since the Civil War. There is no firm command of leading principles and tendencies, no masterly marshaling of facts, no historical insight. In each of the six episodes treated the author is the slave of his particular subject and is quite overwhelmed by the mass of its details, with the result that the work as a whole is confused and incoherent.

Distinctly the best part of the volume is that dealing with the Federalist-Burr project of a Northern Confederacy, with the Burr conspiracy in the Southwest and with the Federalists in the War of 1812. The measure of success attained by the author here seems due largely to the fidelity with which he follows the great investigators of the period, especially the work in which Henry Adams's *apologia pro meo avo* is so cleverly disguised as a "history of the United States." In the later episodes of nullification and secession, in which the Southerners were chiefly concerned, the author seems to suffer from the need of accepting as a guide von Holst, whose lurid work is at the same time in many respects distasteful. With the nationalism of the German writer Mr. Powell is in hearty sympathy, but he cannot accept the dogma of the inherent and total depravity of the Southern slaveholders. This deviation from the path of his leader is corrected by his vehemence in denouncing Andrew Jackson. The hero of New Orleans figures as a sort of kleptomaniac: on page 282 he "stole Texas"; on page 287 he "stole the treasury"; on both he "defied Congress"; and on the intervening pages the catalogue of his iniquities is portentous. The reader finds grateful relief only in the fact that the monster "failed to even coerce the wives of his cabinet officers" in the affair of Mrs. Eaton.

Mr. Powell's "Concluding Chapter" is an odd medley of reflections on past and present tendencies of our politics. His summary of the questions involved in the attempts at nullification and secession sets this interesting puzzle for the reader: In which of the

attempts was the question that of "the right of genius to supremacy"? There is circumstantial evidence that the author intended by this phrase some allusion to the Burr conspiracy; but the connection is not so well established as to preclude debate. Whatever the solution of the problem, we have the author's assurance that in all the attempts the outcome was "favorable to the republic" (p. 412). Yet this leaves it in doubt as to whether "the right of genius to supremacy" was or was not established. The book closes with a survey of some of the social questions of the day, in which the author manifests a fairly sound but somewhat confused conservatism. There will appear to many readers a sort of anti-climax in his final query: "Will another Jefferson arise for 1900?"

WM. A. DUNNING.

Nominations for Elective Office in the United States. By FREDERICK W. DALLINGER, A.M. (Harvard Historical Studies, Vol. IV.) New York, Longmans, Green & Co., 1897. — xiv, 290 pp.

Senator Dallinger has in the book before us made a valuable contribution to the literature of American political science. Most writers on the subject which he treats have devoted their attention almost exclusively to the institutions of the formal governmental system, forgetting that our actual political system gets its tone as much from its party organization as from the constitution and laws which are framed for its outward regulation. Senator Dallinger's book, which is a history of the growth of party methods for nominating candidates, as well as a description of present party arrangements, is, therefore, a welcome supplement to the usual treatises on American government. It is particularly welcome at a time when the public are awaking to a realization of the fact that their supposedly democratic system of government is being rapidly changed, as a result of the changes that have been made during recent years in methods of party management.

Mr. Dallinger's work is divided into four parts: the first deals with the history of the subject; the second describes present methods; the third attempts to point out the defects of these methods; while the fourth considers, one after the other, the various remedies which have been proposed. All that is said on these points is marked by absolute impartiality and great moderation. The writer's attitude is that of the student of political phenomena, rather than that of the reformer of political abuses. While such an attitude is of great advantage to him in his treatment of the first two parts of his subject,